

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LIMA 04044 102312Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
ACDA-12 AID-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 MCE-00 EUR-12 COME-00
OMB-01 IO-13 /119 W
-----064857 102318Z /61

P R 102248Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9957

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 4044

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PE PBOR MASS PINT

SUBJ: DAS MCNEIL CALL ON GENERAL RICHTER PRADA

1. SUMMARY:GENERAL RICHTER PRADA REITERATED GOP COMMITMENT NOT TO PURCHASE NEW ARMS, AND EXPLAINED THAT RECENT REPORT OF TANK CARRIERS CONCERNS A PURCHASE ORIGINALLY MADE IN 1976. HE STATED THAT THE GOP IS FULLY SUPPORTING A SUCCESSFUL JUNE 4 ELECTION, BUT AFTER JUNE 4 THERE COULD BE SOME FORMS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES AND THE GOVERNMENT, SUCH AS A JOINT MILITARY-CIVILIAN CABINET AND JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. PERUVIAN ARMS PURCHASES. IN CALL ON GENERAL RICHTER PRADA, CHIEF OF THE COMANDO CONJUNTO, DAS FRANCIS MCNEIL EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE IMPACT OF PERUVIAN ARMS PURCHASES ON DEBT BURDEN. HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT PERU WOULD PUT OFF PURCHASE OF TWO SUBMARINES, BUT NOTED THE GREAT INTEREST IN WASHINGTON ABOUT ANY REPORTS OF NEW ARMS ACQUISITIONS. AS AN EXAMPLE, MCNEIL CITED THE RECENT PUBLISHED ACCOUNT IN LATIN AMERICAN REPORT THAT PERU HAD BOUGHT SIXTY TANK CARRIERS FOR \$10 MILLION FROM A EUROPEAN SUPPLIER. RICHTER PRADA REPLIED THAT HE UNDER-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LIMA 04044 102312Z

STOOD THE SUBMARINE PURCHASE WAS BEING POSTPONED BUT THAT IT WAS PRIMARILY A MATTER FOR THE NAVY AND HE COULD NOT GIVE SPECIFIC CONFIRMATION. AS FOR ARMS PURCHASES IN GENERAL, HE STATED THAT PERU WAS FULLY ABIDING BY ITS COMMITMENT NOT TO BUY ANY NEW PRIMARY WEAPONS. THE ONLY THINGS THAT PERU WOULD HAVE TO BUY ARE REPLACEMENT PARTS OR SUPPORTING EQUIPMENT. CONCERNING THE REPORT ABOUT THE

TANK CARRIERS, RICHTER PRADA STATED THAT THIS PURCHASE HAD BEEN MADE IN 1976, AND THAT THE ORIGINAL CONTRACT FOR SEVENTY CARRIERS HAD BEEN REDUCED TO SIXTY TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF PRICE INCREASES SINCE THAT TIME. RICHTER PRADA ADDED THAT HE HAD MENTIONED THIS TO GENERAL ROGERS SEVERAL MONTHS AGO.

3. PERU-ECUADOR BORDER. RICHTER PRADA WAS BRIEF IN STATING THAT PERU HAD NO TERRITORIAL INTENTIONS IN ECUADOR, AND THAT HE HOPED THE BORDER RELATIONSHIP COULD BE MAINTAINED PEACEFULLY IN KEEPING WITH THE RIO PROTOCOL. HE STATED THAT PERU WAS TAKING A CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH TO THE PAYANGO-TUMBES IRRIGATION PROJECTS BUT THAT THE BENEFITS OF THESE PROJECTS SHOULD BE SHARED FIFTY-FIFTY BETWEEN PERU AND ECUADOR. MCNEIL NOTED U.S. INTEREST TO BE HELPFUL IN RESOLVING THE BORDER ISSUE.

4. ELECTORIAL CAMPAIGN. RICHTER PRADA STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT THE GOP AND HE PERSONALLY ARE GIVING TOTAL SUPPORT TO BRINGING THE JUNE 4 ELECTION TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. HE NOTED THAT THERE WOULD LIKELY BE PROVOCATION FROM THE EXTREME LEFT, AND MENTIONED THE CURRENT TEACHERS' STRIKE AS AN EXAMPLE. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS DOING ALL IT COULD TO AVOID SOCIAL UNREST AND FOR THIS REASON CERTAIN ECONOMIC MEASURES SUCH AS THE PHASING OUT OF FOOD SUBSIDIES COULD NOT BE TAKEN UNTIL AFTER THE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LIMA 04044 102312Z

JUNE 4 ELECTION. AFTER JUNE 4, ASSUMING THE "DEMOCRATIC PARTIES" OBTAINED A MAJORITY OF THE SEATS, RICHTER PRADA THOUGHT THAT THERE MIGHT BE FORMS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES AND THE GOVERNMENT, BUT NOT SO FAR AS TO MAKE THE CONSTITUYENTE A GOVERNING BODY. (HE APPARENTLY CONSIDERED ALL EXCEPT THE EXTREME LEFT AS DEMOCRATIC PARTIES, BUT THOUGHT THAT THE EXTREME LEFT MIGHT GET AS MUCH AS 40 PERCENT OF THE VOTE.) EXAMPLES OF SUCH COOPERATION COULD BE, ACCORDING TO RICHTER PRADA, A JOINT MILITARY-CIVILIAN CABINET AND JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONS. MCNEIL STATED STRONG U.S. SUPPORT FOR THE SCHEDULED RETURN TO ELECTED GOVERNMENT AS BEING PURSUED BY THE MORALES BERMUDEZ GOVERNMENT.

5. COMMENT: THE FORTY PERCENT ESTIMATE FOR THE EXTREME LEFT IS MUCH HIGHER THAN WE OR MOST OBSERVERS EXPECT, AND COULD BE A DELIBERATE EXAGGERATION TO MAKE PEOPLE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE THREAT OF THE LEFT (AND HENCE THE NEED OF THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT TO BE FIRM WITH THEM), AS WELL AS TO HAVE AN ELECTION RESULT MORE FAVORABLE THAN PREDICTED. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE MANY RUMORS AND DISCUSSIONS IN THE INDEPENDENT PRESS ABOUT CIVILIAN MILI-

TARY COOPERATION AFTER JUNE 4, IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT
RICHTER PRADA DISCUSSED THIS OPENLY AND DIRECTLY WITH US.
PREEG

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL MILITARY RELATIONS, ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LIMA04044
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780199-0315
Format: TEL
From: LIMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780574/aaaacldz.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 825030a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2737700
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DAS MCNEIL CALL ON GENERAL RICHTER PRADA
TAGS: PBOR, MASS, PINT, PE, (PRADA, RICHTER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/825030a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014